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WEEKEND NEW YORK
February 24-26, 2012
NYC'S #1 FREE DAILY

'I've never felt this EXPOSED before'

Tyler Perry sheds the prosthetics of his Madea costume to take on a leading dramatic role for the first time in 'Good Deeds' {page 16}

TODD WILLIAMSON/WIREIMAGE

ACADEMY AWARDS

SUNDAY, 8:30 P.M. ON ABC

WHO SHOULD WIN VS. WHO WILL WIN {page 10}

OUR OSCAR PARTY DRINKING GAME {page 12}

MIAMI MELTDOWN: LIN, KNICKS COME UP EMPTY IN LOSS **SPORTS** {page 23}

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Arrested, drugged for being tipsy at terminal

Staten Island woman says the NYPD falsely imprisoned and abused her after she had a few drinks Forced to go to a hospital, mocked and put in a straightjacket, she claims

In a lawsuit filed against the city this week, a Staten Island woman claims she was handcuffed, hospitalized and sedated against her will for the "crime" of sitting on the ground while waiting for the Staten Island Ferry.

Web developer Chloe Sowers, 37, says she spent the evening of Dec. 8 at a party thrown by Absolut Vodka, imbibing four martinis before heading home to Staten Island. When she arrived at the Staten Island Ferry terminal, there were no seats available so she sat on the ground to wait, she says. She was drinking coconut water on the floor when she said Police Officer McKeon approached her and asked if she was OK, the complaint alleges.

"He was polite and I thanked him for checking on me," Sowers said. "When he stopped me from boarding the ferry, that's when I became miffed."

Sowers says McKeon then called EMS. She was arrested, handcuffed, tied up on a gurney and taken by ambulance to New York Downtown Hospital. At the hospital, Sowers said she tried to untie herself from her restraints, prompting a hospital employee to remark, "Hey, it looks like we got a Houdini here."

> **"Walking through the ferry terminal causes a sense of fear and dread."**
> CHLOE SOWERS

"It was cold and uncomfortable," Sowers said, recalling her nightmare to Metro. "When they held me down to tie me up, they took my shoes off and made fun of me with comments like 'Ewww, stinky feet."

Hospital staff then allegedly put Sowers in a straight jacket and sedated her with an antipsychotic.

When she woke up from the drug, Sowers said she was no longer restrained, so she fled the hospital.

Gregory Antollino, Sowers' attorney, is seeking unspecified compensation from the city and the hospital for the variety of abuses Sowers said she suffered. Among them are false arrest and imprisonment, excessive use of force, assault and battery.

City Law Department spokeswoman Kate O'Brien Ahlers rebuffed Antollino's claims.

"It appears from the complaint that the police acted responsibly to assist an inebriated woman," Ahlers said.

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What happened to Chloe?

Chloe Sowers details a disturbing end to an innocuous evening on Dec. 8, 2011.

1. From 8 to 11 p.m., Sowers attended an event sponsored by Absolut Vodka where she says she drank four vodka martinis.
2. Then, she went to the Staten Island Ferry terminal and sat on the floor because there were no open seats.
3. NYPD Officer McKeon approached Sowers and asked if she was OK, to which she replied "yes."
4. At midnight, the ferry came and McKeon prevented Sowers from boarding. He then called EMS.
5. EMS strapped her to a gurney and brought her to Downtown Hospital, where she was put in a straight jacket and forcibly sedated.
6. In the morning, Sowers woke up unrestrained and escaped.

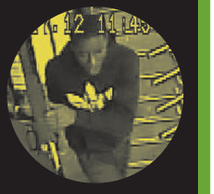
▶ Chloe Sowers shows bruises on her body from the restraints.

In the news

Police search for pervert in Gramercy

The NYPD is looking for a man wanted for sexual assault last month. According to cops, the suspect, a 25- to 30-year-old black man, followed a 30-year-old woman into her apartment building at Irving Place and East 18th Street on Jan. 6. As she waited for the elevator, he lifted up her skirt and touched her buttocks, the woman told police. METRO/CB

In the news



Mugging arrest

Police arrested two teenagers for robbing an elderly man and pushing him onto the Lorimer Street J-train tracks, authorities announced Thursday. Andrew Wang, 81, told NBC he was waiting for the train last Friday when the two teens stole his iPhone. "I chased him a little bit, and about 10 steps later, another guy just pushed me and I fell down," said Wang. METRO/SV

Verizon drops Islamic channel

LONG ISLAND CITY. Verizon FiOS TV will no longer carry Bridges TV, a niche channel aimed at the Muslim-American community. Bridges TV news director and anchor Samantha Azzar said Verizon informed her that the channel would be dropped on March 15. Azzar said Verizon cited Bridges TV's low viewership as the reason, though the company would not provide her with ratings information.

Bridges TV made headlines in 2009 when then-owner Muzzammil Hassan was arrested and charged with beheading his wife, Aasiya Zubair, who was also the station's general manager. The murder happened at the station's former studio in Buffalo, N.Y.

CASSANDRA GARRISON

▶ Bridges TV

Teacher's aide accused of molesting young girls

JAMAICA. A 30-year-old teacher's aide was arrested Thursday and charged with inappropriately touching six female students, all between the ages of 9 and 10, while he worked at a public elementary school in Jamaica, Queens.

According to the Queens DA, Brett Picou molested young girls repeatedly between November 2011 and this month while working at PS 52. METRO

Other news

A 16-year-old student also told police this week a substitute teacher touched his nipples inappropriately twice on the same day, Feb. 10. The teacher was arrested.

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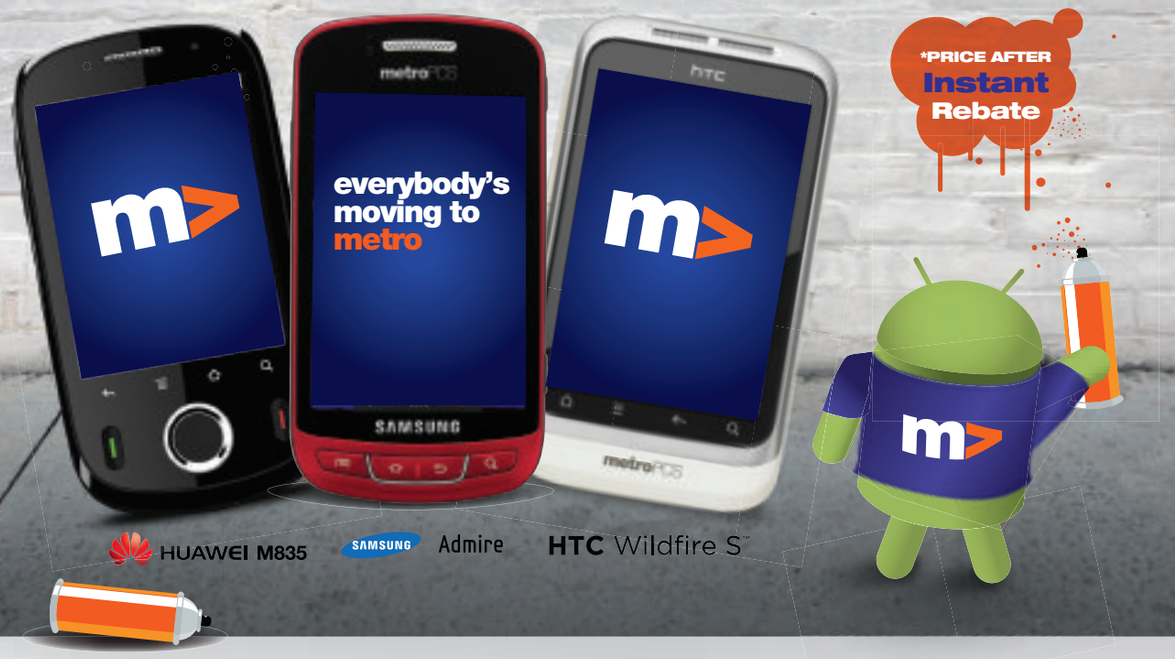

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Mother Teresa rejected first

The Empire State Building has rejected many requests for religious remembrances, most notably a request to light up in white and blue for Mother Teresa's 100th birthday in 2010.

"The Empire State Building celebrates many cultures," Malkin said in a statement at the time, in response to the outcry over his decision. He said the building lights up every year for the religious holidays of Easter, Eid el Fitr, Hanukkah, and Christmas. But he drew the line at Mother Teresa.

"[The building] has a specific policy against any other lighting for religious figures or requests by religions and religious organizations," said Malkin. METRO/EAE

Empire State Building refuses to light up for cardinal

GETTY IMAGES

The Empire State Building has officially refused to honor Cardinal Timothy Dolan's recent promotion, building owners decided Thursday.

Dolan has served as the archbishop of New York since 2009 and is the spiritual leader of the city's 2.5 million Roman Catholics. Last week, on Feb. 18, he was elevated to become a cardinal.

Rep. Michael Grimm, a congressman who represents parts of Brooklyn and Staten Island, sent a letter to Anthony Malkin, who owns the Empire State Building, asking the iconic New York structure to honor Dolan with special lighting. Grimm asked that the lights turn "Cardinal red" until Feb. 26.

But the Empire State Building Company responded Thursday to Grimm's request with a resounding "No."

"After careful consideration of your proposal, unfortunately, the decision has been made to deny your request," read the rejection letter the ESB sent to Grimm on Thursday, which Metro obtained a copy of.

Grimm said he strongly disagrees with the decision.

"I am disappointed," Grimm said. "I strongly encourage them to reconsider their position. His new role is something all New Yorkers can be proud of, which is why I couldn't think of a better way to show our pride than by lighting the top of the Empire State Building."

The lights atop the skyscraper often change. For example, on Feb. 28 they will turn green and blue in honor of the National Eating Disorders Association and National Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

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Cardinal Dolan, no. Ninja Turtles, sure!

▶ Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles pose on top of the ESB.

GETTY IMAGES

Empire State Building owner Anthony Malkin may take issue with lighting up the tower for religious figures, but he has no problem flipping the switch for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. In 2009, the building was illuminated in neon green to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the popular cartoon terrapins. The Empire State Building also turned red and gold that same year in honor of the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. Back in 1995, it was even lit up in bright blue for the rollout of blue M&Ms. METRO/EAE

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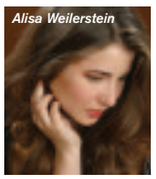
Alisa Weilerstein

Mar 8, 10, 13
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Bystanders catch baby thrown from window in blaze

Frantic mother tosses infant boy two stories to save him from flames Queens fire deemed suspicious

A desperate mother flung her 15-month-old son out the window of a burning home in Queens on Thursday morning, after a heavy fire broke out there at around 3 a.m.

More than 60 firefighters from 12 different ladder companies rushed to the blaze, which started on the second floor of the private Jamaica home.

Firefighter Dan Delargy said he saw the child fly out of the window as he was walking in the front door.

"As we were setting up, the lady couldn't wait for us and she dropped her baby out the window," he told NBC News. "She was hanging out as far as she could and there were civilians walking by and they caught the baby."

Good Samaritan Shamel Lawrence said he and another man held out their hands to make sure they wouldn't miss the infant when he fell.

"We made like a net to catch the baby," he said.

The child landed safely in their arms, and both mother and son are expected to be fine. In all, the blaze sent 10 people to the hospital with smoke-related injuries, according to an FDNY responder.

Suspicious

The cause of the fire has been deemed suspicious, an FDNY spokesman told Metro. Officials aren't sure how the inferno started, but aren't ruling out arson. No nearby source was found that could have created such intense flames so quickly, said the spokesman. The investigation is ongoing.

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Spring. Awakening

▶ Unfortunately, Thursday's balmy weather won't last: Friday's forecast calls for rain.

CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY

Crocuses are early bloomers in the city

The Central Park Conservancy tweeted this photo of tiny crocus blossoms in Central Park on Thursday. "It's still winter, but colorful signs of the coming season are popping up all over Central Park," a spokesperson wrote on the park's website. Hellebore, daffodils, winter aconite and winter jasmine blossoms have also all been spotted in the park so far. EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN

NYC suicide rate half the national average

NEW YORK. The New York City Department of Health announced Thursday that the Big Apple's suicide rate is nearly half the national rate. The national average is 11 deaths per 100,000 people while just six New Yorkers take their lives per every 100,000 people, the health department found. However, the report also revealed a correlation between alcohol and suicide. In New York City, one-third of people who committed suicide in 2007 and 2008 had been drinking near the time of the incident. METRO/EAE

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Booker

NYPD lashes back at Booker criticism of Muslim spying

NEW YORK. NYPD spokesman Paul Browne lashed back at Newark Mayor Cory Booker Thursday, after Booker expressed outrage over news that the NYPD spied on Muslims in Newark. Browne said that Newark police officials were indeed notified that the NYPD was monitoring Muslims in their city as potential terrorist threats. One Newark cop even worked as a liaison to New York City cops, Browne insisted. "Newark police officials were briefed before and afterwards," said Browne, according to the New York Post. METRO/CB

Trees chopped to stop muggers in the Bronx

INWOOD. Locals are up in arms over crews cutting down dozens of trees during the past week in an attempt to stop muggers in Isham Park and Inwood Hill Park in the Bronx. Around 40 trees have been chopped down since Feb. 20 and crews plan to continue working until Saturday to improve public safety there, according to DNAinfo.com. Many admit there is a crime issue in Inwood Park, but one local tree lover said he would prefer to see improved lighting and police cameras instead of chainsaws. METRO/SV

NY hearing on DSK suit set for March

- Civil suit filed by maid will be argued before a Bronx judge next month
- But neither Strauss-Kahn nor the maid will have to appear in court

Lawyers for former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn will appear before a New York judge in March to defend against a civil lawsuit filed by the hotel maid who accused him of sexual assault.

The lawsuit, which was filed by the maid in August, claims Strauss-Kahn forced her to perform oral sex in May in a suite at the Sofitel Hotel in midtown Manhattan.

The March 15 hearing at the state Supreme Court in the Bronx will likely address a motion from Strauss-Kahn's lawyers to throw out the lawsuit.

Criminal charges against the one-time French presidential hopeful were dismissed in September after Manhattan prosecutors uncovered inconsistencies in the woman's account.

'Delay tactic'

Douglas Wigdor, one of the maid's lawyers, called DSK's attempt to have the suit thrown out a "delay tactic."

In the civil case, Strauss-Kahn's attorneys have argued that he enjoyed diplomatic immunity by virtue of his post at the IMF, even after he resigned following his arrest.

Douglas Wigdor, one of the maid's lawyers, called the immunity claim a "delay tactic" on Thursday and expressed confidence that the court would deny Strauss-Kahn's motion.

Strauss-Kahn's lawyers did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Strauss-Kahn and the woman are not required to appear in court for the hearing. Wigdor said he has not determined whether his client will attend.

Under U.S. law, the civil lawsuit remains viable even after the dismissal of the criminal charges. The burden of proof for civil liability is less stringent than for a criminal conviction.

Strauss-Kahn has referred to the incident with the hotel maid as a "moral error" but insisted that the encounter was consensual. **REUTERS**

His legal troubles continue

- News of the March 15 Bronx court hearing tops off a bad week for Frenchman Strauss-Kahn.
- The politician was held and questioned for two days this week by French authorities.
- He was held in connection with allegations that a prostitution ring organized by his business acquaintances supplied prostitutes to men staying at the luxury Carlton Hotel in the French city of Lille.
- Strauss-Kahn could still face a formal investigation in that case.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

▶ The New York Supreme Court will likely address a motion from Strauss-Kahn's legal team to dismiss the lawsuit on March 15.

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SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Is he any different than the rest of them?

Obama's tax cut plan: Cut, simplify, complicate, raise

Metropolitik

MICHAEL J. FROSCH
SPECIAL GUEST COLUMNIST
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Fresh off last week's Protestant Reformation (or Secular Inquisition, depending on your propensity for melodrama), the Obama administration pivoted to jobs and unveiled a new corporate tax plan crafted by treasury secretary and former Gringotts Wizarding Bank branch manager Timothy Geithner.

The new plan proposes lowering corporate tax rates from 35 to 28 percent across the board. This alone doesn't tell us much, however, because the current 35 percent figure is the nominal rate — the number on the books before all the deductions and subsidies are factored in. For instance, after accountants were finished punching the very last equals sign last year, total corporate taxes were only 12 percent of profits — significantly less than the nominal 35 percent rate.

Though the plan argues for lowering the nominal rate, it would also eliminate the multifarious loopholes and subsidies in the existing corporate tax code that are responsible for the massive gap between nominal and effective rates and have led, the administration argues, to economic "distortions that hurt productivity and growth."

Strange, then, that the plan — in its very next paragraph — inexplicably proposes carving out a brand new subsidy/loophole that would create a special effective tax rate for manufacturing sector corporations, dropping the proposed 28 percent nominal rate even further to "no more than 25 percent."

The inconsistency is obvious — "distortions hurt economy, subsidies create distortions; therefore, let's create a new subsidy!" And not just any subsidy, but a subsidy for the manufacturing sector, which Republicans won't hesitate to characterize as a payout to unions. Here, I'll just do it for them to get it over with: "This President says he wants to stop distorting the economy, but he's happy to distort the economy even further — so long as it helps his cronies in the United Auto Workers."

So effective is the plan at exposing its own vulnerabilities that one begins to suspect it may secretly be the first step in a government takeover of criticism.

As a final insult, the plan concludes by promising to simplify tax filing for small businesses "so that they can focus on growing their businesses rather than filling out tax returns." Thank you, Obama administration, for taking all the paperwork out of running a small business. Now I can finally throw away my reading glasses and replace all the sales contracts, invoices, loan documents, commercial leases and regulatory compliance logs with various gentlemen's agreements, firm handshakes and unwavering eye contact.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Obama apologizes for Koran burning, Karzai ramps up the pressure

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Afghan demonstrators shouts anti-US slogans during a protest against Koran desecration in Kabul.

President Barack Obama apologized on Thursday for the burning of copies of the Koran on a U.S. base in Afghanistan as the White House sought to quell spiraling furor among Afghans while also staving off Republican criticism at home.

Obama apologized in a letter to Afghan President Hamid Karzai for the incident in which Afghan workers found charred copies of the Muslim holy book on a military base near Kabul, White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters aboard Air Force One.

Carney said the incident, which has sparked angry protests against U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan and underscored the divide between many Afghans and the foreign forces who have been there battling the Taliban for a decade, was not intentional.

While Carney said the apology was "wholly appropriate given the sensitivities" about treatment of the Koran, he said Obama's primary concern was "the safety of American men and women in Afghanistan, of our military and civilian personnel there."

The Koran burnings could make it even more difficult for U.S.-led NATO forces to win the hearts and minds of Afghans and bring the Taliban to the negotiating table ahead of the withdrawal of most foreign combat troops by the end of 2014.

Only last month, U.S. officials rushed to respond to fallout from a video showing U.S. forces urinating on the bodies of dead Taliban fighters in Afghanistan.

A spokesman for the NATO-led force said on Wednesday troops involved in the Koran-burning incident should have known to check with cultural advisers to determine how to dispose of religious material properly. **REUTERS**

Seven Marines die in copter collision

Two U.S. military helicopters collided during a training exercise along the Arizona-California border, killing seven Marines.

The aircraft, an AH-1W Cobra and a UH-1Y Huey, were conducting nighttime training operations when the accident occurred about 8 p.m. local time Wednesday.

The Marines said initially the crash occurred over the Yuma Training Range Complex but a Marine Corps spokesman later clarified that it happened just beyond the complex on the California side of the border.

Television images showed a scorched debris field in the desert where the helicopters fell.

The Marines said the incident was under investigation and declined to say whether initial information suggested what caused the accident.

"Our airfield operations folks were contacted immediately and we began dispatching Marines to the scene to actually find out what's going on," Marine Gunnery Sgt. Dustin Dunk said. **REUTERS**

Jobless claims steady at four-year low

BLOOMBERG

The number of Americans filing new claims for jobless benefits last week held at the lowest level since the early days of the 2007-2009 recession, signaling that the battered labor market is healing.

Workers filed 351,000 initial claims for state unemployment benefits, the same as in the prior week, the Labor Department said on Thursday.

The data suggests that a long cycle of heavy layoffs has run it course, laying the ground for more hiring.

The last two weekly readings for claims were the lowest since March 2008, just three months after the deep recession began. Initial filings peaked above 650,000 in March 2009.

Signs of improvement in the job market have been growing.

The unemployment rate, which stood at 9.1 percent in August, dropped to 8.3 percent in January, and additions to payrolls have exceeded 200,000 for two straight months. **REUTERS**

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

SNAKES IN THE GRASSROOTS

I spent some time this week perusing the swampland of rumors on the Internet about President Obama and his Republican challengers. There are accusations of almost everything: constitutional malfeasance, secret religious rites, shady backroom deals, broad daylight skullduggery, and cheating at golf.

I was inclined to dismiss it all when I stumbled onto a little known fact about myself: I am a Reptilian. See for yourself. Google my name and that word, and you will find that I am apparently a member of some strange species dropped onto the earth to masquerade as humans while we set up a new world order. As best I can make out, this nasty notion was hatched in the ravings of an infamous English conspiracy theorist.

CNN - POLITICS

Quoted

"After all, in plenty of science fiction films, the lead character doesn't realize he is a robot until it is dramatically revealed at the end."
FOREMAN

Still, it got me thinking: Maybe I should examine this more carefully. After all, in plenty of science fiction films, the lead character doesn't realize he is a robot until it is dramatically revealed at the end. Even Pinocchio didn't initially know he was carved from an old stump. And it turns out that the evidence, in my case, is mixed.

First, I am a member of the media. Plenty of folks would assume from that fact alone that I must be cold blooded. I don't spend winters buried in the backyard mulch, but I enjoy lying in the sun, and occasionally I have nightmares about being trapped in a giant jar.

Second, I have shed my professional skin many times. I've been a political correspondent, an on-the-scene disaster guy, a crime detective, a scientific explainer, a sports analyst, and a movie critic. And while I don't crave insects, I have always had a pronounced fondness for shrimp and crawfish, which, in a Ridley Scott sort of way, certainly seem rather buggish.

Third, like an alligator, I enjoy long afternoons of barely moving, prefer to flee when strangers come calling, and yet if you get too deeply into my space, I will bite hard.

See where I am headed here? These revelations have not utterly convinced me of my reptilian origin, but they have made me reconsider all those horrid things I am reading about the candidates during this overheated political season. After all, judging from the blog traffic plenty of other people apparently believe those rumors, and of course such things can't be on the Internet unless they are true.

*– CNN's **Tom Foreman** is a regular on "AC360°"/www.ac360.com and "The Situation Room."*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

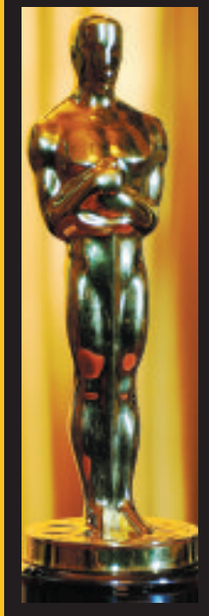
2

WEEKEND

OSCARS: WHO WILL WIN AND WHO SHOULD WIN

While the Academy has finished voting and the Oscar winners are all but decided, we gave some experts one last chance to weigh in on the year's best Here's a look at who will most likely win, who should win and who should've been nominated in the first place, according to experts from TheWrap.com, Vulture and our own Hollywood correspondent, Ned Ehrbar

More coverage



Follow us on Oscar Night!

Metro will be reporting directly from the red carpet and press room on Oscar Night. Follow our Hollywood correspondent, Ned Ehrbar, @nedrick on Twitter to get up-to-the-minute photos, quotes and breaking news. The 84th Academy Awards air Sunday at 8:30 p.m. on ABC.

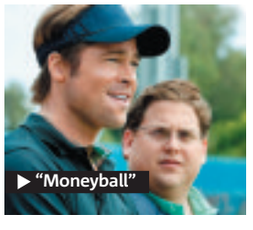
	Best Picture	Best Director	Best Actor	Best Actress
Alonso Duralde, TheWrap.com	**Will win:** "The Artist." It's a feel-good movie that, beyond being silent and black-and-white, plays it pretty safe — and it's got the Weinstein machine behind it. **Should win:** "The Descendants." When people look back at this period of filmmaking decades from now, the humanity and the wit of Alexander Payne's movies will continue to resonate. **Should have been nominated:** I know that movies like "Weekend" or "Attack the Block" would never in a million years get the nod from Oscar, so I'll go with "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy."	**Will win:** Michel Hazanavicius ("The Artist"), more as part of the sweep for "The Artist" than out of a collective love of the "OSS 117" series [also directed by Hazanavicius] **Should win:** Alexander Payne, "The Descendants" **Should have been nominated:** Bennett Miller, for making "Moneyball" so fascinating to non-sports fans like me	**Will win:** Jean Dujardin, "The Artist" **Should win:** I'd love to see Gary Oldman get it, both for making such small choices resonate so deeply in "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" and as a tribute to 25 years of unpredictable work. **Should have been nominated:** Steve Coogan in "The Trip." Playing "yourself" is tricky business, and he makes his obnoxious onscreen alter ego eminently watchable.	**Will win:** Viola Davis ("The Help"), who gives an extraordinary performance in the service of a toxic movie **Should win:** Davis, if only for having the role that relies the least on prosthetics/makeup/costume **Should have been nominated:** Vera Farmiga, for her luminous work as a woman who begins to question her commitment to her faith in the wonderful and little-seen "Higher Ground," which she also directed
Kyle Buchanan, Vulture	**Will win:** "The Artist" **Should win:** "Moneyball" **Should have been nominated:** "Drive"	**Will win:** Michel Hazanavicius, "The Artist" **Should win:** Either Woody Allen ("Midnight in Paris") or Terrence Malick ("Tree of Life"), simply because they won't show up and the lack of a speech will help bring the show in on time **Should have been nominated:** Bennett Miller, "Moneyball"	**Will win:** Jean Dujardin, "The Artist" **Should win:** Brad Pitt, "Moneyball" **Should have been nominated:** Michael Shannon, "Take Shelter"	**Will win:** Viola Davis, "The Help" **Should win:** Viola Davis, "The Help" **Should have been nominated:** Kristen Wiig, "Bridesmaids"
Ned Ehrbar, Metro World News	**Will win:** "The Artist," a decent tribute to the history of film, but too light for my taste **Should win:** "Hugo," a much more inventive tribute to the history of film	**Should have been nominated:** "Shame," by far one the best — and most depressing — films of the year.	**Will win:** Michel Hazanavicius, "The Artist" **Should win:** Martin Scorsese, "Hugo" **Should have been nominated:** David Fincher, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo"	**Will win:** Jean Dujardin, "The Artist" **Should win:** Gary Oldman, "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" **Should have been nominated:** Michael Fassbender, "Shame"	**Will win:** Meryl Streep, "The Iron Lady" **Should win:** Streep, because really, it's time. And she made Margaret Thatcher human. **Should have been nominated:** Tilda Swinton, "We Need to Talk About Kevin"

▶ Silence is golden for "The Artist."

"The Descendants"

Gary Oldman

Viola Davis



▶ "Moneyball"

Meryl Streep

Martin Scorsese

3 Tips to Oscar party gold

Event specialist Barton G. Weiss (www.bartong.com) tells us how to host a smash-hit Awards night soiree

Dress the part

The Academy Awards are all about drama and fantasy. Draw inspiration from the amazing costumes of the period films nominated for Best Picture this year. Ask guests to dress as their favorite character from any of the nine nominees — it's Oscar night, so a dress-up party is definitely the way to go.

METRO

Create a menu a la motion picture

Serve small bites. Create a menu playing on the best pictures themselves (i.e., traditional Southern dishes for "The Help" and French-inspired appetizers for "Midnight in Paris").

Not your average concession stand

Rather than traditional appetizers, take typical "movie" food up a notch and serve truffled popcorn, mini pigs in blankets and nachos topped with queso fresco and chorizo. And instead of sugary sodas, whip up your own flavors with an at-home soda kit (they cost less than $100).

Oscar party snacks recipe

Smoked salmon, creme fraiche, and caviar potato skins

What to buy: Look for potatoes in 5-pound bags, as they tend to be smaller in size than loose potatoes. Avoid green-spotted or sprouted potatoes — they contain the bitter toxin solanine.

Game plan: Use the leftover scooped potatoes for mashed potato cakes, gnocchi or potato soup.

Ingredients

- 8 (3-inch) russet potatoes (about 2 ¼ pounds), scrubbed and thoroughly dried
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter (¼ stick), melted
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4-6 ounces thinly sliced smoked salmon
- 3 tablespoons creme fraiche or sour cream
- 4 teaspoons caviar

Directions

1. Heat the oven to 400°F and arrange a rack in the middle.

2. Pierce each potato several times with a fork or sharp knife. Place the potatoes directly on the oven rack and bake until the skins are crisp and a knife easily pierces the potatoes, about 50 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack until cool enough to handle, about 10 minutes. Set the oven to the broil setting.

3. Slice each potato in half lengthwise. Using a spoon, scoop out the flesh, leaving about ¼ inch intact; reserve the flesh for another use. Brush the insides of the potatoes with the melted butter and season with salt and pepper. Flip the potatoes over, brush the skin sides with butter and season with salt and pepper. Evenly space the potato halves skin side up on a baking sheet and broil until the butter foams and the skins start to crisp, about 2 to 3 minutes (keep a close watch so they don't burn). Flip the potato halves over and broil until the top edges just start to brown, about 2 to 3 minutes more.

4. Divide the salmon evenly among the skins and top each with about ½ teaspoon of the creme fraiche and ¼ teaspoon of the caviar. Serve immediately.

CONTRIBUTED BY CHOW.com

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Dan Jewel, LIFE & STYLE

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5 Things you didn't know about the Oscars

COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

▶ Colin Firth picks up his freshly engraved Oscar statuette at last year's ceremony.

On-site engraving

It used to be that winners were given a dummy Oscar and would have to wait weeks for the real thing to arrive, but starting last year the Academy started setting up an engraving station at the Governor's Ball right after the ceremony. No word on how much winners would have to bribe the engravers to embellish the accolades, but if you notice a plaque that says "Viola 'Suck it, Meryl!' Davis," you'll know it's possible.

Seat-fillers are hard at work

One of the cushiest gigs in Hollywood for an extra is that of an Oscars ceremony seat-filler. The well-dressed group waits backstage to sit in for presenters, winners or anyone else who needs to get up without leaving the auditorium looking a little less star-filled. The seat-fillers even get to walk the red carpet before the ceremony.

Extended acceptance speeches

While winners tend to be swept off the stage after a minute or less of giddiness, there's a camera setup backstage that streams online where they can add in any friends or family members they didn't get a chance to mention — or completely forgot.

Even more tuxedos

The Oscars is a black-tie event for everyone, down to the stagehands, caterers and lowly press mulling about backstage. While the more physically demanding jobs — like hauling cameras around the auditorium — get a pass on the bow-tie, the crew members still have to look presentable.

Attendees are paying for drinks

While the Golden Globes offer an open bar throughout the ceremony, the lobby drink stations at the Kodak Theater still charge during the ceremony. So if you see folks heading up the aisle at commercial breaks, assume they're reaching for their wallets.

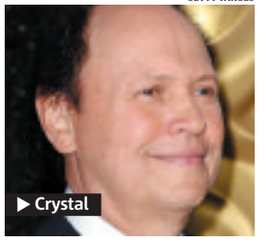
NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Bottom's up, Oscar!

Awards shows can get pretty long and tedious, even for movie buffs. This Academy Awards Viewing Party Drinking Game should help enliven the dull moments. (But of course, please enjoy responsibly.) The rules are simple. Take a drink every time:

1. The orchestra attempts to "play off" a winner during their acceptance speech. (Take two if it's during an acting category.)
2. Someone reference's Michael Fassbender's nude scenes in "Shame."
3. You don't recognize someone during the "In Memorium" montage.
4. "The Artist" wins an award — but do it quietly.
5. Someone makes a lame joke about "The Artist" being a silent film.
6. A loser pretends to be cool about losing, but you know they're really angry
7. Billy Crystal actually makes you laugh. METRO/NE

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Crystal

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David Wain: The wanderer

- Comedian/director David Wain reunites with Paul Rudd with 'Wanderlust,' co-starring Jennifer Aniston
- 'A lot of the comedy comes from just innate hypocrisy'

COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

▶ David Wain advises Jennifer Aniston on proper trip-out behavior on the set of "Wanderlust."

With "Wanderlust," director and co-writer David Wain sends a pair of Manhattanites (Jennifer Aniston and Paul Rudd) down the communal-living rabbit hole as they decide to move into an "intentional living" community led by a cultish womanizer (Justin Theroux). But working with a talented comic cast and plot points like free love, nudist winemaking and living without doors can lead to more material than you can fit into one movie. Luckily, Wain has a solution.

Why do you think hippies continue to be such a great source for comedy?

We all have sort of a fantasy of being that, you know? We all think like, what if we could just walk away from conventional life — let our hair grow and just relax and focus on enjoying every moment instead of doing whatever the f— we do. You know? It's fascinating, and so we can simultaneously kind of fantasize and make fun of it. And any sort of radical stance that people take — living in a commune like that — is filled with contradiction and hypocrisy as part of what goes with it. I think that's where a lot of the comedy comes from, just innate hypocrisy. You're so virulently and dogmatically saying there are no rules.

You're dealing with a good deal of sexual humor — and at times nudists. How much do you worry about ratings and the MPAA?

Well, with rated R you can do most anything, and usually if it's going to be too hard for an R, then it's not that interesting to me. I don't necessarily want to show ... penis and vagina or whatever. I guess basically the other answer is I've never had an issue with them. All four movies I've done have been rated R, and then none of them have come back and said, "Take something out."

During production, how much is it a part of the thought process that some material can go on the DVD?

A little bit. I mean, you're always thinking, "Maybe this will just be on the DVD." Well, in fact, in our case maybe a little more, because the DVD has something called "The Bizarro Cut" on it, which is an entire movie of "Wanderlust" — from beginning to end — made up almost entirely of material that's not in the cut. So it's literally a whole other "Wanderlust." It's definitely the weirder, more obscure stuff.

Q&A

When editing a comedy like this, with so much extra footage, how do you decide what stays and what doesn't?

There's definitely no science to it, but it's a lot of work. That's the big bulk of the editing work, is to make those calls as to what might be funny but takes you too far away from story or drags it too much — even though in a vacuum, it's very funny. Jokes are very delicate things, and everything's about context. It's very subjective, and that's just part of the experience and taking time and testing and screening, experimenting with different ways. But you can't possibly test in front of an audience every possible combination.

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

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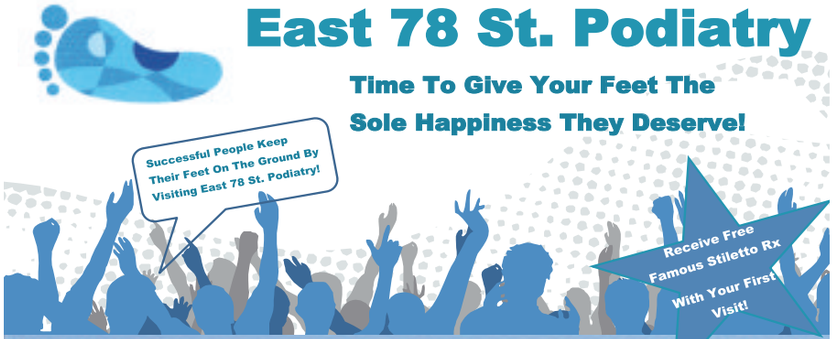
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CHRONICLE (2012/ I) (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:50, 12:05, 1:15, 2:25, 3:40, 4:50, 6:05, 7:15, 8:30, 9:40, 10:55, 12:05. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:50-12:05-1:15-2:25-3:40-4:50-6:05-7:15-8:30-9:40-10:55-12:00. Digital Presentation
CONTRABAND (R) 12:20, 3:10, 5:55, 8:40, 11:25. Digital Presentation
THE DESCENDANTS (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:15, 1:05, 3:55, 6:45, 9:35, 12:25.C I N D E P E N D E N T ; D i g i t a l Presentation; **Sun** 10:15-1:05-3:55-6:45-9:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
EK MAIN AUR EKK TU (NR) 10:35. Digital Presentation
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 6:55, 10:25. Digital Presentation
THE GREY (R) 10:35, 1:40, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:15, 3:20, 6:25, 9:30, 12:30. RealD 3D; **Sun** 12:15-3:20-6:25-9:30. RealD 3D
JODI BREAKERS (NR) 12:45, 4:20, 7:50, 11:20. Digital Presentation
JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:20, 1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05, 12:35. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:20-1:55-4:40-7:20-10:05. Digital Presentation
JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND 3D (PG) 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:50. RealD 3D
JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) **Fri** 10:30, 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10, 11:50. IMAX 3D; **Sat** 1:55-4:40-7:20-10:05-12:35. IMAX 3D; **Sun** 10:30-1:10-3:50-6:30-9:10-11:50. IMAX 3D
LOVE (NR) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:30, 3:35, 6:40, 9:50, 12:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 12:30-3:35-6:40-9:50.C I N D E P E N D E N T ; D i g i t a l Presentation
MAN ON A LEDGE (PG-13) **Fri** 11:05, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:55, 12:30. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:05-7:10-9:55-12:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:05-1:45-4:30-7:10-9:55. Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: ERNANI (NR) **Sat** 12:55
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 10:40, 1:50, 5:10, 8:15, 11:40. Digital Presentation
RED TAILS (PG-13) 10:05, 1:00, 4:00. Digital Presentation
THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY (KARI-GURASHI NO ARIETTI) (G) **Fri** 10:45, 11:55, 1:20, 2:30, 3:45, 5:05, 6:20, 7:40, 8:55, 11:30. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:55-2:30-5:05-7:40. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:45-11:55-1:20-2:30-3:45-5:05-6:20-7:40-8:55-11:30. Digital Presentation
STAR WARS: EPISODE I - THE PHANTOM MENACE 3D (PG) 10:25, 1:35, 4:55, 8:05, 11:15. RealD 3D
TERE NAAL LOVE HO GAYA (NR) 11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20. Digital Presentation
UNDEFEATED (PG-13) 11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15, 11:15. Digital Presentation
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING 3D (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:20, 12:55, 3:25, 5:50, 8:20, 10:45, 1:00. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:20-12:55-3:25-5:50-8:20-10:45. RealD 3D
WANDERLUST (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:10, 11:25, 12:50, 2:05, 3:30, 4:45, 6:10, 7:30, 8:50, 10:15, 11:35, 12:55. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:10-11:25-12:50-2:05-3:30-4:45-6:10-7:30-8:50-10:15-11:35. Digital Presentation

AMC Loews Kips Bay 15
888–AMC–4FUN
Corner of 31st Street and 2nd Avenue
2012 BEST PICTURE SHOWCASE 2/25 Sat 11:00. Digital Presentation
ACT OF VALOR (R) 10:35, 11:30, 1:05, 2:00, 3:35, 4:30, 6:05, 7:00, 8:35, 9:30, 11:10. Digital Presentation
CHRONICLE (2012/ I) (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:45, 12:50, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:45-12:50-2:50-5:00-7:10-9:15. Digital Presentation
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 11:50, 2:40, 5:25, 8:00, 10:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
GHOST RIDER 3D: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE (PG-13) **Fri** 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15. CC-Closed Captions;RealD 3D; **Fri** 11:00-1:15-3:30-5:45-8:00-10:15. RealD 3D; **Sat** 8:00-10:15. RealD 3D; **Sat** 8:00-10:15. CC-Closed Captions;RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:00-1:15-3:30-5:45-8:00-10:15. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:00-1:15-3:30-5:45-8:00-10:15. CC-Closed Captions;RealD 3D
GONE (PG-13) 10:40, 1:00, 3:35, 6:00, 8:25, 10:50. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 10:30, 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45. RealD 3D
JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:50, 2:20, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30. IMAX 3D; **Sun** 11:50-2:20-4:45-7:00-9:15. IMAX 3D
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: ERNANI (NR) **Sat** 12:55
SAFE HOUSE (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:40-1:10-3:40-6:10-8:45. Digital Presentation
THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY (KARI-GURASHI NO ARIETTI) (G) 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30. Digital Presentation
THIS MEANS WAR (PG-13) 10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00. Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S GOOD DEEDS (PG-13) **Fri** 10:30, 1:05, 3:40, 6:15, 8:55, 11:30. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:00-1:30-4:00-6:15-8:55-11:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:30-1:05-3:40-6:15-8:55. Digital Presentation
THE VOW (PG-13) **Fri** 11:00, 11:45, 1:30, 2:15, 4:00, 4:45, 6:30, 7:15, 9:00, 9:45, 11:20. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-11:45-1:30-2:15-4:00-4:45-6:30-7:15-9:00-9:45. Digital Presentation
WANDERLUST (R) 10:45, 1:15, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10. Digital Presentation

Regal Union Square Stadium 14
800–326–3264 628
13th & Broadway
ACT OF VALOR (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00, 12:25; **Sun** 11:30-2:00-4:40-7:20-10:00.
CHRONICLE (2012/ I) (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 8:10, 10:25, 12:40; **Sun** 1:00-3:20-5:30-7:35, 10:30. RealD 3D
THE IRON LADY (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 8:05, 10:45
JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND (PG) 11:10, 4:20, 9:40
JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:50, 7:10, 12:00. RealD 3D; **Sun** 1:50-7:10. RealD 3D
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: ERNANI (NR) **Sat** 12:55
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 12:00, 3:00, 6:25, 9:25

NICOLAS CAGE
GHOST RIDER
SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE
COLUMBIA PICTURES AND HYDE PARK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH IMAGENATION ABU DHABI
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DIRECTED BY DAVID SARDY
PRODUCED BY E. BENNETT WALSH DAVID S. GOYER STAN LEE MARK STEVEN JOHNSON AND MARVEL COMIC
SCREENPLAY BY DAVID S. GOYER
STORY BY SCOTT M. GIMPLE & SETH HOFFMAN AND DAVID S. GOYER
STORY BY STEVEN PAUL ASHOK AMRITRAJ MICHAEL DE LUCA AVI ARAD ARI ARAD
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AMC Loews 34th Street 14
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312 W. 34th St.; between 8th and 9th Avenues
ACT OF VALOR (R) 10:40, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20. Digital Presentation
CHRONICLE (2012/ I) (PG-13) 10:45, 1:10, 3:25, 5:45, 8:15, 12:00. IMAX 3D; **Sun** 10:55-1:25-4:05-6:45-9:30. IMAX 3D
SAFE HOUSE (R) 10:20, 1:20, 3:20, 4:10, 7:10, 8:45, 10:00. Digital Presentation
THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY (KARI-GURASHI NO ARIETTI) (G) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:30-2:00-4:35-7:15. Digital Presentation
THIS MEANS WAR (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10. Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S GOOD DEEDS (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:50, 12:15, 1:50, 3:10, 4:40, 6:20, 7:40, 9:15, 10:40, 12:10. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:50-12:15-1:50-3:10-4:40-6:20-7:40-9:15-10:40. Digital Presentation
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING 3D (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:30. RealD 3D; **Sun** 9:50. RealD 3D
THE VOW (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40, 12:20. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:10-1:45-4:20-7:00-9:40. Digital Presentation
WANDERLUST (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:15. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:30-1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30-11:00. Digital Presentation
THE WOMAN IN BLACK (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00. Digital Presentation

AMC Loews Lincoln Square 13
888–AMC–4FUN
1998 Broadway
ACT OF VALOR (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:15, 1:10, 2:10, 4:05, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:15-1:10-2:10-4:05-7:00-8:00-10:00. Digital Presentation
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 10:05, 12:55, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE (PG-13) 10:50, 4:45, 10:35. Digital Presentation
GHOST RIDER 3D: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE (PG-13) 10:20, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05. RealD 3D
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) **Fri** 10:10, 4:05, 10:40. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 4:05-10:40. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:10-4:05-10:40. Digital Presentation
THE GREY (R) 1:00, 7:40. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 10:00, 1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 10:25. RealD 3D
THE IRON LADY (PG-13) 11:20, 2:05, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00. IMAX 3D
SAFE HOUSE (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:45, 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:30, 12:25. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:45-1:40-4:35-7:30-10:30. Digital Presentation
STAR WARS: EPISODE I - THE PHANTOM MENACE 3D (PG) 10:55, 12:45, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20. RealD 3D
THIS MEANS WAR (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:30, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45, 12:15. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:30-1:55-4:30-7:05-9:45. Digital Presentation
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (R) 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:40.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE VOW (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:10, 1:55, 5:05, 7:50, 10:50, 12:35. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:10-1:55-5:05-7:50-10:50. Digital Presentation

Regal E-Walk 13
800–326–3264
247 W 42nd St @ 8th Ave - In Times Square
GHOST RIDER 3D: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE (PG-13) 12:00, 2:40, 5:25, 8:10, 10:50. RPX
GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE (PG-13) 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:45, 12:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
GONE (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10, 12:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
SAFE HOUSE (R) 11:00, 11:50, 1:40, 2:30, 4:20, 5:10, 7:05, 8:05, 9:50, 11:00, 12:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THIS MEANS WAR (PG-13) 11:55, 12:55, 2:35, 3:30, 5:00, 6:00, 7:30, 8:30, 10:05, 11:05, 12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE VOW (PG-13) 11:35, 12:35, 2:05, 3:05, 4:40, 5:40, 7:20, 8:20, 9:55, 10:55, 12:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE WOMAN IN BLACK (PG-13) 12:50, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40

Regal Battery Park Stadium 11
800–326–3264 629
102 North End Avenue - Vesey & West Street
ACT OF VALOR (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:50, 12:10; **Sun** 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:10-10:50.
THE ARTIST (PG-13) 1:45, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30
CHRONICLE (2012/ I) (PG-13) 4:35, 9:35
GHOST RIDER 3D: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE (PG-13) 2:45, 8:00. RealD 3D
GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE (PG-13) 12:10, 5:25, 10:35
GONE (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10, 12:35; **Sun** 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10.
HUGO 3D (PG) 1:30, 6:45. RealD 3D
SAFE HOUSE (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00, 12:00, 12:40; **Sun** 1:50-4:40-7:20-10:00.
THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY (KARI-GURASHI NO ARIETTI) (G) 12:00, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40
THIS MEANS WAR (PG-13) **Fri** 3:10, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45; **Fri** 12:40. OC-Open Caption; **Sat** 12:40-5:40-8:15-10:45.; **Sat** 3:10. OC-Open Caption; **Sun** 12:40-10:45. OC-Open Caption; **Sun** 3:10-5:40-8:15.
TYLER PERRY'S GOOD DEEDS (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50, 11:40, 12:30; **Sun** 1:40-4:30-7:10-9:50.
THE VOW (PG-13) 2:00, 4:25, 7:00, 9:45
WANDERLUST (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30, 12:15; **Sun** 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:30.

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ACT OF VALOR (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30, 12:30. Digital Projection; **Sun** 11:30-2:15-5:00-7:45-10:30. Digital Projection
ALBERT NOBBS (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 3:30, 8:45, 11:30; **Sun** 3:30-8:45.
THE ARTIST (PG-13) 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15. Digital Projection; 12:45-6:15.
THE BODYGUARD (1992) (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45. Digital Projection
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:45, 2:10, 5:45, 9:15. Digital Projection
HUGO 3D (PG) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
THE IRON LADY (PG-13) 4:00
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) 11:00, 1:30, 6:45, 9:30
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00
SHAME (NC-17) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:10, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45, 12:10; **Sun** 11:10-1:45-4:30-7:15-9:45.
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (R) 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00. CC-Closed Captions

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Tyler Perry conquers the world

Or at least he soon hopes to
The auteur sits down with Metro for an exclusive one-on-one about his growing following, taking on a dramatic role and director Spike Lee

▶ Tyler Perry, center, is the toast of the party.

Tyler Perry is no stranger to directing himself on-screen, but his latest film, "Good Deeds" marks his first leading role. Perry — who of course wrote, directed and produced the film as well — stars as Wesley Deeds, a wealthy business owner who strays from his straight-and-narrow path to aid a homeless single mother, played by Thandie Newton. "I was just looking at my own life and asked myself, what if I had done what other people wanted me to do?" Perry tells Metro of his inspiration for the story. "Like, my mother wanted me to work at the phone company. What if I had done that instead of following my own dream, my own heart?"

"Good Deeds" is the first time you've put yourself in the lead of one of your more dramatic films.
At the beginning of it, it was very scary because I've never felt this exposed before. I usually like to have a costume to hide behind, somewhere to hide. The character I play is so close to me and my life, as far as running my own business and some of the things that he endured, so it was pretty scary. But the first week into it, I was like, "You know what? This is going to be great."

You also have the film "I, Alex Cross" coming up — a gig where you're only acting and not writing or directing.
The toughest part of that is that I hate the downtime. The downtime is ridiculous. But I learned very quickly that this is what it is. You sit in the trailer for 12 hours. You're being paid to sit there, so shut your mouth and sit there. Well, for me, I used the time. I wrote three movies while I was on that.

What do you think about studios still being averse to backing films with predominantly African-American casts?
I think George Lucas can speak to it better because he clearly got an education in it [while trying to produce "Red Tails"]. It was clearly shocking to him that it was so difficult. I don't think it's about racism as much as it's about money. And a lot of films being made these days are dependent on international money and box offices, and it's been reported — but never proven — that films with all-black stars, besides Will [Smith] and Denzel [Washington], don't do well abroad. The big issue with that is that nobody's trying to help cultivate an audience. I know I have a huge following in Australia and the U.K. and Africa and the Netherlands, but I haven't found the partner to try and help build that audience.

But that's something you're actively looking to do?
Absolutely. The stories that I'm telling are relevant to anyone. It would be fantastic for people to start to really understand

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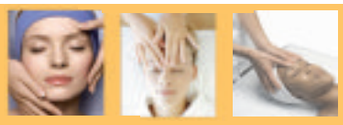

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Also opening

▶ Amanda Seyfried stars in "Gone," in theaters Friday.

SAEED ADYANI

You can't stop a woman on the run

In "Gone," Amanda Seyfried stars as a woman who believes her sister has been abducted by a serial killer whose terror she once escaped herself. When her story doesn't sync with the evidence, authorities begin to view her as crazy and dangerous, like 2011-era Charlie Sheen. METRO

QUANTRELL COLBERT

that we all have stories to tell and we all have stories of interest to anyone around the world.

At Sundance, Spike Lee complained that studios "know nothing about black people." What do you think about that?

You know what I've decided to do with Spike Lee? Stay on purpose, and my purpose here is to just completely focus on what I'm doing, how I'm doing it and my audience. I do know that he has had a time in this business because he came along long before me, so I'm sure that he is experiencing a lot of tough times. And he's got war stories and battles, I'm sure. So if that's where he is in life with it, well God bless him.

NED EHRBAR

METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Film review

COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES.

▶ Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston explore the hippie lifestyle in "Wanderlust."

Wain-derlust

"Wanderlust" isn't comedian David Wain unfiltered — after all, he has Jennifer Aniston's salary to pay — but it's great to see the director's wackier side sneak into a film made for the masses. Set largely on a hippie commune filled with burnouts and the blissfully unaware, you might for a second mistake this to be a reprisal of Wain's 2001 cult hit, "Wet Hot American Summer." But those at the center of Wain's circle, like Michael Ian Black and Michael Showalter, only get to make brief (albeit hilarious) cameos here.

Instead, the film focuses on Aniston and Paul Rudd as a New York couple forced out of the city after losing their jobs. They head to Atlanta, where alpha a—hole brother (played brilliantly by Wain's co-writer of the script, Ken Marino) offers the dismal prospect of working in the portable toilet trade. The couple stumbles upon a commune, where the group's spiritual leader (Aniston's real-life beau, Justin Theroux) convinces them to live.

Given the abundance of great non sequiturs, it's obvious that improvisation played a central role in making the film, which keeps it amusingly unpredictable. There are the kind of character arcs you would expect from any self-respecting broad comedy, but that's easy to swallow when so much of the movie is sublimely, ridiculously hilarious. ● **HEIDI PATALANO**

If you go

▶ **'Wanderlust'**
Director: David Wain
Cast: Jennifer Aniston, Paul Rudd, Justin Theroux
Rating: R **Grade:** ❶❷❸❹❺

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Moliere goes to the mall

Foppish men and churlish maids liven up the World Financial Center

The phrase "use your indoor voice" has no traction in the World Financial Center's Winter Garden, which is a cavernous 10-story courtyard with a grand central staircase and windows overlooking the Hudson. Anything less than shouting gets muffled here, in the plaza's broad maw.

However, Moliere's farcical comedies don't need to be bellowed. The Parisian playwright's works are highly satirical and self-aggrandizing in their own right, so they beg for subtlety and a steady directorial hand. There is none of that in "Playing Moliere," which comprises three of the master's one-acts running back-to-back in Battery Park City through March 11.

New York Classical Theatre is known for creating site-specific works; aside from an office pavilion, you might find the company performing in the park or even on a moving ferry. Seeing 17th-century parody in a contemporary business setting — at 7 p.m., suits are still heading home from work — is a unique experience. The modern atmosphere should feel like a stark contrast to the period costumes and ceremonious language, but somehow makes the production more intimate.

If you go

'Playing Moliere'
Through March 11
World Financial Center
220 Vesey St.
Free, 212-252-4531
www.newyorkclassical.org

ARTS BROOKFIELD

▶ Three one-act plays by Moliere are performed by New York Classical Theatre at the World Financial Center's Winter Garden through March 11.

Viewers cluster together on benches or sit directly on the marble floors; accidental passersby respect the performance while heading for the PATH. But sitting three feet from the lamps that help define the "stages," it is still hard to hear all the quick and clever turns of phrase that are vital for getting the full gist of Moliere.

A cast of eight rotate parts in "Two Precious Maidens Ridiculed," "The Forced Marriage" and "The Imaginary Cuckold." Thankfully, all three plays total scarcely more than an hour.

Kids in attendance are riveted by the over-the-top acting and goofy costumes (think: big skirts, bigger wigs and at least one character in drag). This concept could be smartly marketed toward families, if only it didn't cut so close to dinner and bedtime. Adults may appreciate the unusual setting, but ultimately ask for more from the show. But at least it's free, and it's an approvable example of theater thinking outside of the box.

T. MICHELLE MURPHY
tmichelle.murphy@metro.us

Super 'Tramp'

DUSDIN CONDREN

Although the credits on Sharon Van Etten's new album read like the roster of an indie rock all-star game, at its heart, "Tramp" sounds exactly the way a Sharon Van Etten album should sound. Aaron Dressner of The National produced it; Matt Barrick of The Walkmen does most of the drumming; Zach Conden of Beirut, Jenn Wasner of Wye Oak and Julianna Barwick all provide integral vocal parts. While these contributors add their distinct imprints, they decorate rather than overshadow Van Etten's trademark combo of wistful words and hopeful melodies.

"I called on my friends because of their strengths," says Van Etten, who plays sold out shows at Music Hall of Williamsburg and Bowery Ballroom this weekend. Against this background, she flourishes. Where previous recordings felt like bedroom diaries, the songs on "Tramp" feel more like discussions. In fact, her collaboration with Conden on "We Are Fine" happened because of a shared moment.

"We had it all recorded, but something didn't sit right," she says. "And I realized it was because it was meant to be a conversation. The song is about talking somebody through having a panic attack. And that was one of the first bonding sessions I ever had with Zach."

PAT HEALY

'Tramp'-like fuss

"I was looking for a title that was short, to the point, and strong," says Van Etten of her new album's name. While recording, she was touring and between extended stays in Philadelphia, Brooklyn and New Jersey.

"I wanted it to have the feeling of transience, because I was moving around so much. But I also didn't want it to be a soft, sensitive word," she says. "When you call a man a tramp it's kind of seen as endearing, and when you call a woman a tramp, there's a negative connotation to it. It's more of drawing attention to the word and kind of owning it."

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TV watch list

'The 2012 Independent Spirit Awards'

SPECIAL. Call the 2012 edition of this indie film celebration the Oscars preshow — top nominees "The Artist" and "The Descendants" are likely to take home statues at Saturday's Seth Rogen-hosted fete and at the big show on Sunday. **Saturday, 10 p.m., IFC**

'Celebrity Apprentice'

REALITY. The teams head to Jersey to see who can put on the best show at Medieval Times, which just made us think of the movie "Garden State," which really makes us wonder what Zach Braff's up to lately. **Sunday, 9 p.m., NBC**

'The Walking Dead'

DRAMA. Would it be more satisfying to see Shane shot or turned into a zombie? Discuss, because we're getting near season's end. **Sunday, 9 p.m., AMC** AMBER RAY

NIGHTLINEZ

▶ Pete and Pete, circa 2012: Mike "Big Pete" Maronna, left, is an electrician, and Danny "Little Pete" Tamberelli is in a band.

▶ "That show really affected me. I still wear flannel shirts almost every day," admits Tamberelli, in flannel.

▶ "Nerds are cool. I think that's the basic lesson [of the show] that people still hold on to," says Maronna.

The new adventures of Pete & Pete

On Friday, the entire cast and crew of the '90s Nickelodeon hit "The Adventures of Pete & Pete" will reunite at the Bowery Ballroom, to the thrill of aging hipsters everywhere. Metro sat down with the show's redheaded stars to find out where they've been all this time: New York City.

What's your relationship like with the other Pete?

Big Pete (Mike Maronna): It definitely matured as the show became more involved. People bug out when we walk out on the street together. We can't even drink together in Williamsburg because it's a hipster nuclear bomb.

Little Pete (Danny Tamberelli): We're still close. I'm the oldest in my family, and I don't have any brothers, so he's a legitimate surrogate brother to me. And he's always the first one to wish me happy birthday … because he gets the date wrong.

"We can't even drink together in Williamsburg because it's a hipster nuclear bomb."
MARONNA, ON HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH TAMBERELLI

You got to brush shoulders with a lot of famous folks. Did you realize who they were when you met them?

Maronna: We definitely listened to the B-52s when Kate Pierson was on the summer vacation episode.

Tamberelli: The best memory was playing music with Iggy Pop. He taught me how to play "TV Eye" on the guitar during a scene. He blew my amp.

Do you think now is the right time for the reunion?

Maronna: It's probably just one of those cycles of finding old stuff and making it cool, like fanny packs. I often compare it to fanny packs. Are they already done? Yeah, they're done. Are people still rocking them? I see them sometimes.

Tamberelli: Those kids that were watching it are my age and starting families. Maybe they have kids and they're realizing how good the programming was. There really was a lot of thought about what was going on. There's nothing like that on TV now.

If you go

An Evening with the Cast and Crew of "The Adventures of Pete & Pete"
Friday, 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Bowery Ballroom
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www.boweryballroom.com

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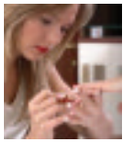
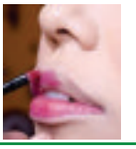

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The feed ...

▶ On Fridays, Dorothy will post the best tweets she received during the week. You can always let her know what you think — good or bad — at @dorothyatmetro.

In last Friday's Word, I took Chris Brown to task for using the joke, "I promise I won't beat you" as a pickup line. Here are just some of the mentions I received in response. One thought, however: It seems to me a "mistake" is spelling a word wrong, not punching a woman in the face repeatedly and then choking and biting her and then leaving her beaten and bloody on the sidewalk — and then making a joke about it later. But that's just me.

@DiWanteDiamond
u need to really shut up already about Chris Brown, he made a mistake and how many mistakes have you ever made in life? #smh

@ELv8scott
great @chrisbrown bash in the #ny metro. He is a total scum bag. Maybe he will have a daughter 1 day and c how he feels then

@1tsBaRbi3
stfu! was u there? No. @chrisbrown apologized already but ppl like u keep talkn bout it, so y cnt he?

@msobie
smart article by @dorothyatmetro on the neanderthal grammy winner — Its true guys like him abuse their daughters too.

@DeejazDope
@dorothyatmetro and the rest of the world is stuck on CB -ss about a situation that happened 3yrs ago. Let it go #teambreezy

@MrzCTTorres
would u go hard if he was white no you wouldnt grow up he was 18 a kid how many 18 y/o kill pple drunk driven from your side of town -sshole

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

'The Voice' is now more popular than 'American Idol'

Christina Aguilera is laughing all the way to the bakery.

Despite everyone talking about her weight, it's not keeping the world from tuning in to watch her and her rag-tag team of co-judges **Blake Shelton**, **Adam Levine**, **Cee Lo Green** on "The Voice." So much so, it's overtaking stalwart "American Idol," which only had 15.9 million viewers on Wednesday night, whereas "The Voice" had 16 million people tune in.

"Idol," take note: There is something to be said for being happy and well fed instead of so well manicured.

Cohen's 'Dictator' oppressed by Academy

Well, the one, lone hope of making Sunday's Academy Awards interesting is dashed: The powers that be are planning to disinvite **Sacha Baron Cohen**, despite the fact he's an Academy member and stars in "Hugo," which is nominated for 11 awards, including Best Picture.

The reasoning? According to the Hollywood Reporter, they're worried he'll come dressed up in full costume as his title character in his new film, "The Dictator." The Academy is trying to smooth things over, saying they aren't banning him, per se; rather, they just want him to come as Sacha, not as his character, General Aladeen, and cause shenanigans.

"We would love to have Sacha Baron Cohen at the Oscars show," a rep for the awards show told CNN. "We have expressed [to Baron Cohen] that we don't like our red carpet to be used as a promotional stunt. We're waiting to hear from him. We've put the ball in his court."

Ha. Don't use the red carpet as a promotional stunt? That's all the red carpet is! From "My gown is by blah blah blah" to "My next film is" to "It's an honor just to be nominated." Come on, Academy. You're letting **Billy Crystal** pretend he's a host for Sunday's telecast; why not let Baron Cohen pretend he's a dictator?

PARAMOUNT

▶ Well, one thing is for sure: He'll be better dressed than Helena Bonham Carter.

"We have expressed [to Baron Cohen] that we don't like our red carpet to be used as a promotional stunt."
SPOKESMAN FOR THE OSCARS

Talking points

Rumor has it: Simpson to have girl

Jessica Simpson is having a baby girl, sources speculate — and her recent shopping trip to L.A.'s Bel Bambini boutique suggests they're right. "Jessica and her mom [Tina Simpson] spent over an hour at the store," an observer tells People magazine. "She took her time picking out the perfect baby items." And those items all happened to be of the pink variety, the source adds.

Moore to stay in rehab

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Brown is looking for a paycheck "this big."

It doesn't look like **Demi Moore**'s stay at a Utah treatment facility will come to an end anytime soon. "Demi is really doing well in rehab. She was about to hit rock bottom, but now things are looking up for her," a source tells Radar Online. "Demi has been doing so well in treatment, but the people around her aren't expecting she'll get out yet — she has a lot of work to do still to be and stay healthy."

Brown to write a tell-all?

Bobby Brown is reportedly looking to write a tell-all memoir about his time with **Whitney Houston** — but it's not the first time he's had the idea, according to the Huffington Post. "Back in 2008, the interest in a book on Whitney Houston wasn't that great. Whitney had fallen off the radar back then," a source says. "But following her tragic death, the market has changed." Friends aren't surprised by Brown's interest: "This is a man who left his ex-wife's funeral because he didn't like his seats and went to a paying gig that night," one pal says.

More kids for Witherspoon

Reese Witherspoon is up for the idea of having a baby with new husband **Jim Toth**, according to Hollyscoop. "I'd love that," the Oscar-winner says. "I feel really good, and I'm at a really good place in my life." Witherspoon already has two children — 12-year-old Ava and 8-year-old Deacon — with ex-husband **Ryan Phillippe**, and she admits another kid would mean more people to embarrass around the house. "The other day I was dancing around the house when they came in and literally stared at me like, 'Oh my God, that's so embarrassing,'" she says of her children. "But I didn't stop. You can't stop dancing."

The forgotten Oscar winners

It's hard to believe now, but these actors and actresses once took home Academy Awards.

1. Nicolas Cage won the Best Actor award for "Leaving Las Vegas" in 1995. Now, he's starring in such classics as "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance."

2. Jennifer Connelly accepted her Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for "A Beautiful Mind" in 2001. We miss those eyebrows.

3. Cuba Gooding Jr. was named Best Supporting Actor for "Jerry Maguire" in 1996. We remember his name, but do we remember any of his roles since then?

4. Jim Broadbent with his Best Supporting Actor statue for "Iris" in 2002. Yeah, we don't recall that win either.

5. Here's two-time Best Actress winner **Hilary Swank** accepting her award in 1999 for "Boys Don't Cry." Great actress, great at winning — but where is she now?

6. Kim Basinger won for Best Supporting Actress in "L.A. Confidential" in 1997. There was "8 Mile," but after that: silence.

7. Adrien Brody won the Best Actor award for "The Pianist" in 2003. Poor Adrien Brody.

1: KIM KULISH/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
2: TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
3, 6: HECTOR MATA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES)
4, 7: FRANK MICELOTTA/IMAGEDIRECT
5: GETTY IMAGES

Letters

letters@metro.us

Re: 'Park Slope Food Coop mulls boycott'

All BDS wants is to delegitimize the Jewish state. By promoting this agenda, BDS is not harming global (or even Israeli) economy too much. However, if the food co-op does buy on to the BDS propaganda, it risks losing some business because its Jewish clients may very well boycott it, too.
AARON BERK, VIA E-MAIL

Since Liz Roberts has chosen history to defend her position on "Co-op needs to stand on the right side of history," let's examine history. In 8 BC, Canaan, which is now "Palestine," was inhabited by Ammonites, Moabites, Israelites and Phoenicians — all considering themselves Canaanites. Where are the Palestinians? Nowhere to be found. Using Roberts own historical standard, it seems the Israeli claim to the region predates the Palestinian's by thousands of years.
DALTON DAVIS, UPPER EAST SIDE

The trouble with the call to boycott Israeli products (at the Park Slope Food Coop) is that it delegitimizes Israel out of ignorance. Liz Roberts cites "Israel's occupation, settlements, land annexation, domination and violence" as reasons. The Israeli military maintains a presence within Palestinian autonomous territory in order to thwart Palestinian terrorists who otherwise murder innocents in Israel. Whose violence are we talking about? One can read about these atrocities over the years.
LEONARD DRUYAN, MANHATTAN

Re: NYC ban on shark fin soup

We often act like we are the only species on this planet. Yet, more and more people around the globe are becoming sensitized to animal suffering and want it to stop. So thanks to Assemblywoman Grace Meng for recognizing that cruel traditions like slaughtering sharks for their fins should be banned.
ELIZABETH FOREL, MANHATTAN

Re: 'When a penny saved is ... wasted'

Mr. Frosch's economics are naive. The depression of 1920 was cut short due, in part, to President Harding cutting the budget nearly in half, slashing tax rates across the board and reducing the national debt by one-third. The Fed did not move to use its powers of interest rate manipulation either. We came out of the depression by the summer of 1921. The same follows for the Great Depression. Enormous amounts of government spending failed. It was only until after WWII that the federal government slashed spending again and private investment nearly doubled — the first real sign of growth in the economy in more than a decade.
KELLY DONNOE, LYNBROOK

Re: 'The purest nonsense' in letters

In my humble opinion, "follow the money" — about war and the threat of war — is definitely not pure nonsense. Wars are and always have been the biggest economic stabilizer of modern times. At this time, there is no combination for increasing employment, either by production or consumption, that can compare to the effectiveness of destruction by wars!
DAVID SNIECKUS, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

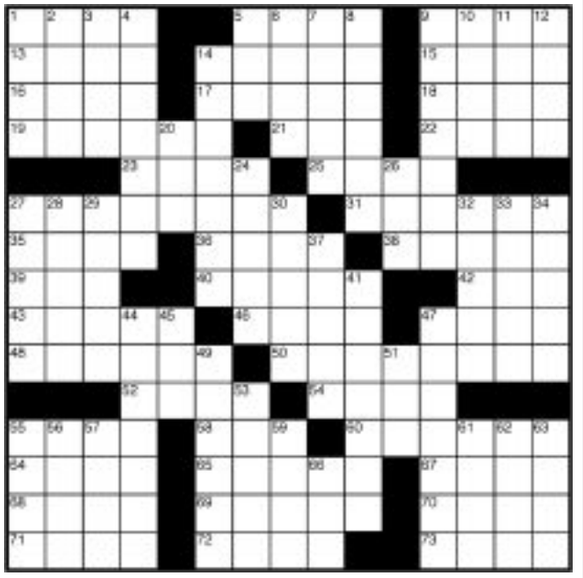
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Because you're feeling a little claustrophobic, you're likely to need more elbow-room than usual in order to function effectively. Try to act independently without smacking anyone in the jaw.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** You should stop and take some time to straighten out an old matter that's never been handled properly. Even if it doesn't bother others, only you, it's worth doing things right.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Although you might not seek or want it, you are destined to play a key role in a group endeavor. Because some members aren't aware of what's going on, they'll welcome input.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't be surprised if you find yourself to be far more ambitious than usual. You might have to contend with some challenges, but you'll win out if you use the big guns.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you are required to make a critical decision, trade on past experiences for a plan. By using the same techniques that were successful before, you'll make the right choice.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Another avenue for material gains could come about through one of your newer relationships. The person in question likes what she or he sees in you, and wants to include you in something worth checking out.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Chances are you'll automatically get involved in a partnership arrangement involving something that happens to be your strong suit. With your input, the results will turn out to be good.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** No grass is going to grow under your feet. Because you'll see what has to be done and know how to do it, you won't hesitate to get crackin'.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** With your popularity at a high point, it goes without saying that you'll be well received wherever you go. Your presence will automatically brighten up any corner you walk into.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Take any opportunity you get to finalize an important development. Don't leave anything up to chance or any loose threads hanging. You may not get another crack at it.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Rely on your splendid mental attributes and your innate logic, but don't totally discount your intuitive perceptions. Each facet has a place in your reasoning, so use your gifts accordingly.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** There's an excellent chance that certain business matters will be less complicated now than they will be tomorrow. Don't put off handling anything important. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Find in the dark
5 Cote dweller
9 Immature butterfly
13 "Beetle Bailey" dog
14 Couch
15 Nile sun god
16 Tackle a bone
17 Alpha opposite
18 Count on
19 Yellowish
21 Grog ingredient
22 On board ship
23 Fleming and Woosnam
25 Underwater shockers
27 Prepares fish, maybe (hyph.)
31 Vegetable sponge
35 Chills and fever
36 Gusto
38 "Tyger, Tyger" poet
39 School of dolphins
40 Changed decor
42 Icy remark?
43 Locales
46 Heroic tale
47 Unkempt one
48 Strut
50 Clabbers
52 Give off heat
54 Mess hall amenity
55 Spanish painter
58 "The Telltale Heart" penner
60 In neutral
64 Hoople expletive
65 Chatter
67 State firmly
68 Alice's chronicler
69 __ Park, Colorado
70 Few and far between
71 Coral ridge
72 Rx directive
73 Have information about

Down
1 Pea-soupers
2 Active volcano
3 Etc. kin (2 wds.)
4 Scumbag
5 Like a low-watt bulb
6 At an end
7 Clear as mud
8 Fingernail polish
9 Shade provider
10 SUVs, slangily
11 Push a raft
12 Novelist __ Seton
14 Fluffier
20 Paddle cousin
24 Monica of tennis
26 Slow pitch
27 Family men
28 Mall for Plato
29 Rubens models
30 Nobelist from Egypt
32 Aesop story
33 Rubber city
34 Thyme and basil
37 Astronomer's prime time
41 Milk sources
44 Leading (2 wds.)
45 "Cheers" bar owner
47 Meadow bird
49 Barked
51 Two-timer
53 Trunk
55 Backpack contents
56 Horrible boss
57 Sturdy lock
59 Packs it away
61 John, in Siberia
62 Pianist Peter __
63 Sprouted
66 Goes with jeans



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to Thursday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.
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HEAT 102 | KNICKS 88 **Up next: All-Star break** **Feb. 29: Cleveland**

▶ Jeremy Lin came up small in Thursday's contest against the Heat. He had eight turnovers and shot 1-of-11 from the field.

Lin can't take Heat

Point guard struggles badly (eight turnovers) in Miami environment Big 3 all go for 20-plus points Knicks enter break one game under .500

It was probably an ominous sign when LeBron James slammed home an alley-oop on the first offensive play of the game for the Heat.

The Knicks answered an incredibly intense Miami crowd, but couldn't pull out a win in their final game before the All-Star break.

The Heat won, 102-88, with Chris Bosh leading the way with 25 points on 11-of-17 shooting. Dwyane Wade added 22, while James nearly had a triple-double with 20 points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

Thursday's game was the first true road test for the Knicks (17-18) with Jeremy Lin in the starting lineup. Seven of his 10 starts have come at home, with Minnesota, woeful Washington and Toronto the road games.

Lin failed the test, but so did the team as a whole. Forward Carmelo Anthony led the team with 19 points on 7-of-20 shooting. Miami is now 27-7 on the season. METRO

What went wrong ...

1 Heat check — It's no secret that Miami crowds are notoriously dead. That is, when they bother to show up. Thursday's atmosphere was different. Right from the opening tip the crowd was raucous. Miami ran out to a 10-4 lead and Mike D'Antoni needed to call a timeout to slow things down.

2 Third watch — The Knicks fought hard all first half to keep themselves in the game. Trailing by just four, the third quarter can be a huge barometer in the outcome. The Heat started the quarter on a 14-6 run, and while they didn't run away with it, New York never got closer than that four-point halftime deficit again.

3 Lin wilts — Even in the Knicks' two losses since Jeremy Lin joined the starting lineup he played well. Not so against Miami. He was bad from the start and never got better. He finished with eight points on a disastrous 1-of-11 shooting. And maybe even worse he had eight turnovers. He only had three assists, the lowest total during this streak. It's only one game, but it was ugly. METRO

3

In the news

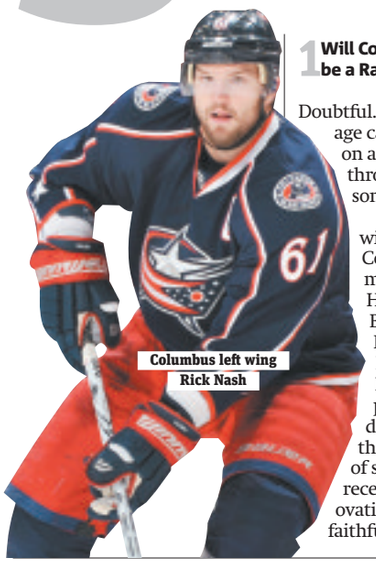
Braun wins

Brewers outfielder, and reigning NL MVP, Ryan Braun had his PED suspension overturned Thursday.

MLB heard Braun's appeal and ruled that he will not have to serve the 50-game ban for a positive test for performance-enhancing drugs. It was the first suspension ever overturned on appeal.

3 DEALS RANGERS COULD PULL OFF AT DEADLINE

Is a deal for Rick Nash realistic for the Blueshirts' offense? What about Jeff Carter? Small additions are most likely



Columbus left wing Rick Nash

1 Will Columbus's Rick Nash be a Ranger?

Doubtful. Nash carries an average cap hit of $7.8 million on a deal that runs through the 2017-18 season.

Coupled with what's widely believed to be Columbus general manager Scott Howson's demands — Brandon Dubinsky, Derek Stepan, Michael Del Zotto or Ryan McDonagh, prospect Chris Kreider and a draft pick — there is a better chance of seeing Denis Potvin receive a standing ovation from the MSG faithful.

2 Why did they let Jeff Carter go to the Kings?

It was a more doable trade than Nash since he's not the star Hash is, but he has 10 years and $52 million left on his long-term deal.

Also, Carter is not among the league's Frank J. Selke Trophy candidates — an award given annually to the forward who shows the most defensive ability.

Besides, Carter would have been a poor fit in John Tortorella's defense-first system. It's not a disappointment, Rangers fans.

3 So who should the Rangers be looking to add?

The smart thinking has general manager Glen Sather tinkering around the edges. The Rangers need a forward to contribute to the power play and fit into the defense. Think an Andrew Brunette-type.

The Rangers could also use a defenseman. The Wild's Marek Zidlicky could be had after he complained about being a healthy scratch three games in a row.

DENIS GORMAN
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

Rex Ryan actually admitted to a mistake Thursday.

Jets' Ryan says guarantee was a big mistake

Jets head coach Rex Ryan showed up at the 2012 NFL Combine trying something new on for size — contrition.

Ryan spoke to the assembled media for the first time since the days after the Jets' season collapsed in the final week and admitted he should not have guaranteed a Jets Super Bowl championship at the combine last season — before he even knew the makeup of his roster.

"The return to the infamous Super Bowl guarantee was here," Ryan said. "In all seriousness, looking back, it was a huge mistake to make that guarantee."

The Jets' season fell apart in a three-game losing streak to end the year, including a blow up with Santonio Holmes and his teammates in the finale against the Dolphins.

Now the Jets go into the offseason looking to change the makeup of the team. Holmes will return thanks to a contract too big to eat. One major change appears to be coming from the man in charge.

There won't be any guarantees from the coach at this year's combine.

"I really thought it would be a thing that would actually motivate our team," Ryan said of last year's guarantee. "But in hindsight, I think it put undue pressure on our team."

The NFL combine in Indianapolis began Thursday, with player workouts starting Saturday. METRO

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METS SPRING TRAINING

Five questions

Not a lot is expected of the Mets this season, but they plan to surprise Metro gets you ready to watch

It's been quite awhile since the Mets went into spring training with as many questions as they have facing them this year.

And while most of them have been addressed, it still seems as if the jury is out on a lot of them.

Johan Santana has proclaimed himself on track after two bullpen sessions. Andres Torres and Ruben Tejada have been plugged in to replace superstars Carlos Beltran and Jose Reyes respectively. But will these changes hold up throughout spring and into the season? The answers are as tenuous as the Mets' current financial issues.

DENIS GORMAN
sports@metro.us

Who replaces Reyes at SS?

The job is Ruben Tejada's to lose, but expect some growing pains. And not just because he has yet to show up in camp, much to manager Terry Collins's chagrin.

He has played in just 174 games the last two seasons and although he finished 2011 with a .284 batting average, he's hit .256 over the two years combined.

What could be a bigger cause for concern are the 10 errors he has made in 291 total chances at second base and shortstop.

Then there's the little matter of his predecessor. Reyes had a bond with the Mets faithful that will be hard to replicate. The fans loved Reyes's electricity and he treasured their love.

That can't be replaced.

Can Torres truly replace Beltran?

That depends on what you're looking for.

If you appreciate solid defense in the outfield, then yes; Andres Torres is more than an adequate replacement for Carlos Beltran. Torres has only committed 19 errors in 801 total chances in his career.

If you are looking for him to replace Beltran's offense, then no; you're probably going to be disappointed.

Torres is a .244 career hitter with 27 home runs in 1,264 at-bats. His game is speed, but a .318 career on-base percentage is tough to have at leadoff.

What about the Madoff lawsuit?

It will be an annoyance, as players — specifically David Wright — will be asked questions they cannot answer while the Bernie Madoff trial is held in Manhattan.

But make no mistake about it. Everyone associated with the Mets will be watching the proceedings intently. Should Irving Picard, the trustee for the Madoff victims, win in court, it could set off a chain reaction that could see the Wilpons perhaps have to sell the team. Or, worse for Mets fans, gut the entire team.

Will Harvey make the rotation?

You will certainly see Matt Harvey, but it's unlikely Harvey will contend for a starting spot.

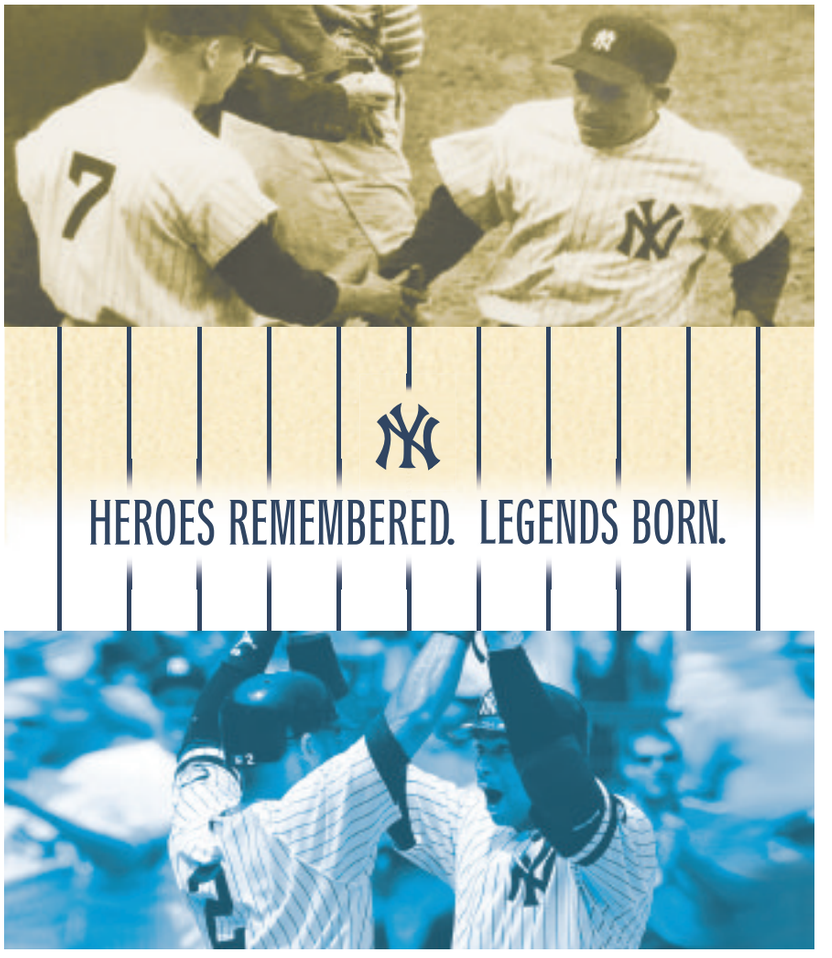
Both Harvey and Zach Wheeler — who was acquired in the Carlos Beltran trade — are the future of the Mets, along with Jeurys Familia. But none of the three have thrown even 100 innings in a single minor league season.

Santana says he will be ready.

Will Santana start opener?

There is a possibility that Johan Santana will be standing on the Citi Field mound at 1:10 p.m. on April 5, in full uniform, prepared to stare down NL East division rival Atlanta.

There's an equal chance that he will be at the Mets' training facility continuing to rehab the torn anterior capsule in his left shoulder that cost him last season. So far he is on schedule to pitch the opener.



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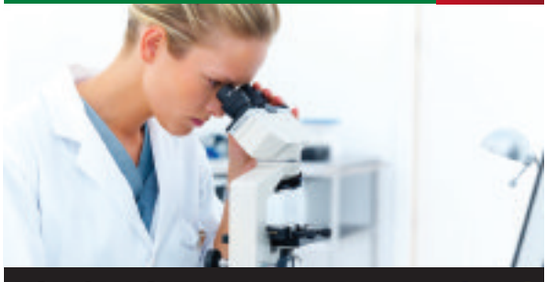

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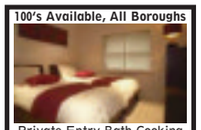
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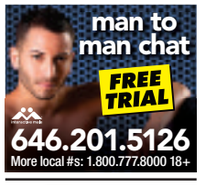

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